

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

**THE UNITED STATES AND BANGLADESH HOST
MULTINATIONAL, INTERAGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE
WORKSHOP**

DHAKA, May 6, 2013 -- The United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) and Bangladesh Armed Forces Division (AFD) will host a multinational, interagency disaster response planning workshop in Dhaka from May 5 – 14, 2013. Participants from various Ministries, Armed Forces and humanitarian organizations from Bangladesh and international partners are taking part in this workshop titled “Multinational Planning Augmentation Team Tempest Express 22 (MPAT TE-22) Shetubandhan or “Bridging the Ties of Friendship.” Now in its 22nd year, the Tempest Exercise always focuses on a topic of interest that the host country identifies. For TE-22, the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division identified the subject of earthquakes.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- Improve coordination and communications architecture among civil ministries of the Government of Bangladesh, the Armed Forces Division (AFD) and international humanitarian actors during disaster response.
- Enhance civil-military coordination between ministries of the GOB and AFD.
- Strengthen use of media in supporting disaster response.
- Enhance airport and seaport prioritization and processing procedures.
- Development of draft procedures to request, receive and coordinate foreign disaster response support.
- Development of planning factors and considerations for establishment of a Regional Disaster Management Centre (RDMC).

The workshop will have three phases. First, subject matter experts will deliver presentations on disaster management. Next, a Table Top Exercise will simulate a post-earthquake situation, in which rescue operations, coordination and other relief for Dhaka must occur. In the final phase of the

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exercise, participants will review contingency plans and standing operating procedures of all stakeholders. All relevant Ministries of Bangladesh government, Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force, Fire Service and Civil Defense, Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Police, RAB, Ansar & VDP, Dhaka City Corporation (North and South), Titas Gas company, Bangladesh Power Development Board, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Dhaka Power Distribution Company, Dhaka Electric Supply Company, Public Works Department, Department of Disaster Management, BTCL, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkya(RAJUK), Department of Public Health Engineering, different Universities and educational institutions, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and NGOs/ International Organizations will take part in Tempest Express - 22.

The Ambassador of United States of America to Bangladesh, Dan Mozena, will preside as chief guest in the Opening Ceremony and senior officers from Armed Forces and Department of Disaster Management will also give remarks as special guests. The Minister for Disaster Management and Relief, Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali, MP will attend the Closing Ceremony. Lieutenant General Abu Belal Mohammad Shafiul Huq, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division, and other high ranking civil and military officers from different organization from Bangladesh and international partners are also expected to be present on the occasion.

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